



USAGS

Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program

Newsletter, Jan 2006



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Happy New Year

Like to start the New Year out by protecting and keeping your neighborhood safe for all? Then become a member of the Stuttgart Community-Police Partnership and join the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program (SNAP) today.

Call or email your Community SNAP Coordinator Mr. Earnest Epps at 430-5560 / Civ. 0711-680-5560, cell 0162-2975280 Or e-mail eppse@6asg.army.mil

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Mrs. Melissa Rodeffer Achieves The Highest Reward in The SNAP Incentive

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program recognizes Mrs. Melissa Rodeffer for her outstanding and superior performance as a community volunteer. She has conducted many of her walks with her dog Macey by her side.

She has also observed as a family with her husband Gary Rodeffer. While participating in the SNAP program as a community observer, Mrs. Rodeffer has been with the program since March 04. She has now reached the highest level in the SNAP incentive award.



At the 3rd step she has observed for 200 hours which entitles her to the gold SNAP lapel pin, a free USO tour and a weekend in the beautiful AFRC Garmisch, at the Edelweiss Lodge & Resort. This program improves situational awareness while supplementing force protection and crime prevention efforts,

reinforces how community members can protect themselves against terrorist and criminal threats and strengthens community bonds by encouraging neighbors to get to know one another in the community. Bottom line: force protection is everyone's business.

Thanks to Mrs. Melissa Rodeffer and her husband Gary Rodeffer for a job well done in assisting in keeping the community safe.



Observing During the Winter Months and The Findings

The Community SNAP Observers continue their observation during the winter season, dressing for the cold weather and taking a walk thru the neighborhood to help protect and keep it safe. They are finding and reporting things such as possible abandoned vehicles, graffiti writing, vandalized government property,

safety issues such as broken windows, street light outages, unsafe playground equipment, uncovered potholes near side walks, exposed electrical cables on street light fixtures, flammable lighter fluids left out that are accessible to small children, leaking fire hydrants, etc. Some are even going a step fur-

ther in keeping the community clean by not walking over trash while observing, they are stopping to pick up trash and continue their observation. As they go about the support of force protection in the fight against terrorism and crime prevention within the community.



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A SAFETY QUIZ• FOR YOU!

Take this quiz to determine if you are doing all you can to protect your home.

- Do all of your entry doors have a peep hole with a wide-angle viewer?
- Do you have timers on some of your lighting to turn the lights off and on to create the illusion that someone is home?
- Do you have deadbolt locks on all of your exterior doors?
- Do you have a home inventory of all your personal property and is it stored in a safe fireproof place?
- Are your house address numbers clearly visible to emergency response personnel from the street?
- Are the windows and doors of your home clearly visible from the street or from your neighbor's yard?
- Are the entries into your home well lit all night long?
- Are you an active member of your Neighborhood Watch' or similar program established in your area?
 - Do you shred or otherwise destroy your junk mail before discarding it?
- Do you have at least one telephone (cell phone) that can be operated without a 'land line'?

SNAP TRAINING

- **11 Jan 06 / 11:00 AM, Patch Barracks MP Station Bldg 2307, SNAP Office Rm 124**
- **25 Jan 06 / 11:00 AM, Panzer Barracks at the IC Office Bldg 2974**

SNAP QUARTERLY OBSERVER'S MEETING

Coming together in order to protect our homes and loved ones.

- **When:** 13 Jan 06,
- **Time:** Starting a 11:30 AM. until 13:00 PM
- **Location:** On Patch Barracks in the Wellness Center Conference Room, Bldg. 2307, 2nd floor.

Terrorist Act In The Pass By ZEINA KARAM

TWA Hijacker Released From German Prison

Germany Paroles Lebanese Man Serving Life Sentence for 1985 Hijacking of TWA Airliner

Robert Stethem 23, a U.S. Navy Diver Steelworker 2nd class based in Norfolk, Virginia. was murdered by hijackers in Lebanon in 1985 after a TWA flight from Athens to Rome was diverted to Beirut.

A hijacker in a terrorist act that riveted America the 1985 seizure of a TWA jet in which a U.S. Navy diver

was killed has returned home to Lebanon, paroled by Germany after serving 19 years of a life sentence. The United States said Tuesday it wants Lebanon to turn over Mohammed Ali Hamadi for trial in the killing of the diver, Robert Dean Stethem. "We have demonstrated over the years that when we believe an individual is responsible for the

murder of innocent American civilians, that we will track them down and that we will bring them to justice in the United States," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said. He said the United States is talking with the Lebanese government about Hamadi, but the U.S. does not have an extradition treaty with Lebanon. Hamadi was in

treaty with Lebanon. Hamadi was in temporary Lebanese custody, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations with the Lebanese are confidential. A senior Lebanese judicial official contacted by The Associated Press declined to comment. Trans World Airlines Flight 847, with 145 passengers and nine crew members, was flying from Athens to Rome on June 14, 1985, when it was hijacked by Shi-

ite Muslim militants demanding the release of hundreds of Lebanese from Israeli jails. During a 17-day ordeal, the plane was forced to crisscross the Mediterranean from Lebanon to Algeria, landing in Beirut three times before it was finally allowed to remain there. An urgent radio transmission from the unflappable TWA pilot, John Testrake, to the Beirut control tower was broadcast around the world: "We must, I repeat, we must land repeat, at Beirut. ... Ground, TWA 847, they are

threatening to kill the passengers, they are threatening to kill the passengers. We must have fuel, we must get fuel. ... They are beating the passengers, they are beating the passengers." The ordeal produced one of the most enduring images of terrorism: a picture of Testrake leaning out of the cockpit window as a hijacker clamped a hand over his mouth and waved a pistol.



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SAFETY MEASURES TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

Here are some safety measures to make it more difficult for someone to steal your identity. Stolen wallets and checkbooks remain the most frequent sources of identification theft.

- Avoid carrying your checkbook or your Social Security card.
- Photocopy your Social Security card and cut out all but the last

digits.

- Never give out your Social Security number without first asking, "What happens if I don't give it?" Most of the time, the answer is "Nothing."
- Don't use your mother's real maiden name or your real city of birth as identifiers. Use made up names. (City of birth: Atlantis). But never make up a Social Security number! That creates a problem for someone else.

- Try to add passwords to online and offline accounts. Anyone who calls your bank or mutual fund needs more than your name, address and Social Security number to impersonate you.
- Make sure your mail is delivered to a locked mailbox.
- Purchase a crosscut shredder and destroy all unsolicited pre-approved credit offers and blank "courtesy" credit.

CHILD SAFETY TIP

From the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Many parents today worry more and more about their children being victims of abduction or a kidnapping. Here are some ways you can prevent you and your child from being a victim.

- Teach your children to run away from danger. Tell them to make a scene by yelling, kicking, and resisting.
- Know where your children are and whom they are with at all times.
- Talk openly to your children about

safety and encourage them to tell you about anyone or anything that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

- Practice what you teach by creating "what if" scenarios with your children to make sure they understand.
- Make your children part of securing your home. Show them how to make sure the doors and windows are locked.
- Consider varying your daily rou-

tines and habits. Do not take the same routes or go at the same time on your regular errands.

- Report any suspicious persons or activities to law enforcement.
- Remember you are your best resource for better safeguarding your family.

Make sure you have your children fingerprinted. There are over 800,000 children missing every year—that's one child missing every 40 seconds.

Talk With Your Children about Riding the Bus

- ♦ Tell them to use the sidewalks, if available. If not available, stay all the way to the right of the street.
- ♦ To be alert when crossing streets, driveways, etc.
- ♦ Stay off the street when at the bus stop.
- ♦ When the bus approaches, to stand away from the street or curb.
- ♦ Wait until the bus is completely

stopped and the driver has the door open before moving toward the bus.

- ♦ If they have to cross the street to board the bus, wait until the bus has stopped completely. Walk approximately 10 feet in front of the bus so the bus driver can see them.
- ♦ Never walk behind the bus or near the sides where the driver cannot see them.



Remember to be safe at all times.





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SUVs And Their Safety

By Greg Hunter, CNN

NEW YORK (CNN) - One thing many SUV buyers like about their vehicles is the increased visibility. They feel like they can see farther down the road over the roofs of other cars. But that long-distance line of sight comes at a price that can be tragic. What SUV drivers can't see is what's close behind them and, when backing out of a driveway or parking spot, that could be a person. In many cases, it's a small child. More than 2,400 children are backed-up over every year in the United States. Of those,

about 100 are killed. In most cases, those children are run over by a parent or other relative. Julie Peck's son, Jackson, was four years old when he was killed two days before Christmas. Jackson's grandmother couldn't see the young boy running up from behind just as she was backing up the family's SUV. He was gone instantly. They didn't hear a sound when the car backed over him," said Julie Peck. "When they pulled it off him, he wasn't making a sound." It's called the "bye-bye syndrome" said Janette Fennell, founder of the auto safety group Kids and Cars. Wanting one last chance to see mommy, daddy, or grand-

mother before they go, a child will run up behind the vehicle at the worst possible time. Small children don't realize that the driver may not be able to see them. While most drivers are aware that there are areas behind their vehicle in which they cannot see, many don't realize how large those areas can be. The problem is worse in trucks and SUVs than in other cars because of their increased height and the distance between the driver and the tailgate or rear window. "More and more people are buying bigger and bigger," said Consumer Reports auto test director David Champion,

"and the bigger the vehicle, the bigger the blind spot." Champion illustrated the problem using 28-inch-high cones, about the height of a typical two-year old. The cone had to be 10 feet, 10 inches from the back of a Subaru Impreza sedan before it became visible in the rear-view mirror. The cone had to be a little over 18 feet to be seen from the driver's seat of a Dodge Grand Caravan minivan and it was invisible up to 25 feet from the back of a large Toyota Tundra pick-up. From the driver's seat of a Chevrolet

Suburban, a large SUV, the cone wasn't visible until it was 46 feet, nine inches away. Various factors, besides just the size of the vehicle, can affect the size of blind spots. Small windows can make blind spots larger, for example, while high-mounted seats can make them smaller. "On these big vehicles where we see something like 20, 30, 40 feet of blind spot behind, that is where the problems are," said Champion. "That is where the deaths we are seeing in back over accidents are occurring."

It's a problem the industry isn't addressing right now, said Ron DeFore, a spokesperson for SUV Owners of America, an organization partially funded by car companies. There's not enough data, he said, to require automakers to come up with a solution. Optional equipment available on many trucks and SUVs can help solve this problem. Some cars and trucks are already available with sensors that sound an audible warning when something is close behind and the vehicle is in reverse. Some even have video cameras that show what's behind the vehicle.

Safeguarding Your Home

- Keep doors and windows locked.
- If someone comes to your door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself. Don't invite them in.
 - Install a peephole on your door and look before opening the door.
 - Never open the door to strangers.

- ers.
 - Keep blinds or drapes closed at night.
 - Verify the identity of any repairmen, use the telephone number listed in the phone book, not on their identification.
 - Always double check doors at

night and be sure to lock all windows.

- Don't hide a spare key under the doormat or under a flowerpot, thieves know to check all of these locations.

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